

## Ben Davis

WHERE now is old Ben Davis, that widely famed baloot? May guardian angels save him from Ben and all his fruit! In office and in chapel men roast that total loss, that fierce and futile apple that old Ben put across. The barber men who shave us, the boys who shine our boots, all jump on old Ben Davis, and curse his misfit fruit. And for Ben's apple looting will evermore endure that in man's clothing, that white sepulcher. It typifies the shoddy, it's false as human sin; so slick in outer body, so bum and cheap within. The red Ben Davis apple is tempting, smooth and smart; but when with it you grapple it simply breaks your heart; you cuss the name of Davis, and grind your teeth and hiss: "Why does the monster brave us by springing fruit like this?" So gaudy fakes still tempt us, beguile us everywhere, and may the gods exempt us, and keep us from the snare!

—WALT MASON.

## For Taxpayers To Determine

TAXPAYERS will be expected to express their views upon the proposed joint city-county building, through the medium of written ballot deposited in the postoffice this week or early next week. Blanks are now being sent to taxpayers for the purpose.

The great majority of taxpayers were and are opposed to any project of this sort that may interfere with the proper extension of public school facilities and public improvements.

The city could not issue bonds for this building without seriously retarding school development and improvements.

But it appears that the city has no intention of issuing bonds for this building, even if the project be approved by taxpayers. The county would issue any bonds that might be needed, and the city would lease its quarters from the county.

The main question at issue thus far is: First, do we need new buildings right now, or would we better wait a while? Second, if we decide on a building now, what form should it take and how should it be paid for?

The present rental outlay for overflow quarters is not a large enough item to determine the point of present necessity.

The city hall could be made to do for some years yet, by renting temporary quarters in the vicinity for some of the offices if necessary.

The county court house is not so overcrowded as to make business impossible, but it is not fireproof, and is generally discreditable to the modern city.

The city jail is hopelessly inadequate and unsuitable.

But public business might be carried on for some years yet in present quarters if some money were spent in repairs and renovation, and later in renting outside quarters for some offices.

Supposing taxpayers generally favor a new building, there is a choice as to the amount that should be invested. There are two kinds of public building that might be considered: one the beautiful classic renaissance now so effectively used in government buildings, as typified in the New Orleans postoffice, the Denver mint, and the Memphis city hall; the other, the strictly business building, with no pretence to architectural or monumental effect, but simply an office building of the familiar type of city office block; a few important cities have adopted the second plan, though most still make some effort to set up a building that will forever stand as a monument to good taste and evidence of stability.

The difference in cost, upon which the taxpayers will be asked to express themselves, is partly a matter of the sort of building that may be chosen. The "monumental" building on classic lines necessarily costs considerably more than the plain unassuming office building of equal floor space. It would certainly be better not to try the more ornate building, unless we could be sure that the architecture would be permanently satisfying, and not become a thing of the passing of time. It may be that a plain office building with no pretensions would be better.

The choice of site enters into the choice of architectural type. Obviously a "monumental" building requires a prominent and ample site; while a plain office building might just as well be placed on a street of secondary importance, provided it be central.

For example, a "monumental" building designed for its beauty and permanent architectural effect, should be on the San Antonio street side of the courthouse block, while a building of the other type might just as well be set on the Overland street side, permitting the sale of the San Antonio street frontage to help pay for the building.

The proposals for an auditorium and a market house in connection with the proposed joint building are interesting. Undoubtedly El Paso needs an auditorium and it needs a market house. The market house and the auditorium may well go together, since such a combined building, if well planned, is not unusual. Just what combination is between the market and the business and court buildings of the city and county, however, is not apparent. It may be that the plan would work out all right. But the chief argument in favor of combining the market-auditorium feature with the court-and-office buildings is that the ground is public ground, and can be used for these purposes, while it would cost a good deal to acquire other sites for the market and auditorium.

The general question as to whether this is the proper time to press the movement, involving a large bond issue, perhaps overshadows others in the minds of most taxpayers. As a matter of fact, the cost of the bond issue would fall lightly on most taxpayers, so as to be hardly felt by any but the larger property owners.

Inasmuch as El Paso has no "civic center" or central grouping of all public buildings, and probably never will have, it is folly to spend much money in extra architectural effect on this building. And it would be far better to confine the plan to a plain market-auditorium building, with court rooms, auditorium, music hall or assembly room, and possibly market arrangements, than it would be to attempt something very fine for a "monumental" building and fall down on it, for lack of money or lack of competent architectural advice.

The Herald has previously expressed itself as opposed to any proposal for city bonds that might retard the development of the schools and needed public improvements. Since this issue is no longer presented, our judgment is that there is really but one alternative now presented to taxpayers:

First, the indefinite postponement of the public building project.

Second, the selling of the city hall and fire department-jail buildings and sites, and also of the San Antonio street half of the court house block, and the erecting on the Overland street side of a suitable building to house all the city and county offices, courts, and departments, and also, if practicable, an auditorium, a smaller assembly hall, and the market-auditorium building.

Such a plan, if decided upon, to be planned solely for utility, without much regard for "monumental" effect. In other words, the building to be just a plain, honest, concrete and steel structure, fireproof, ample, roomy, light, well ventilated, properly equipped in every way for the business of running the county and city.

The cost of such a building, if this plan be adopted, might run anywhere from \$300,000 to \$600,000, though it probably would not be necessary to complete the whole building at once. The plans could be made for a city of 200,000 population, and then only such parts of the building erected as would certainly be needed within the next five or ten years.

We should rather see the money put into a first class plain fireproof business building with the suggested additional features, than to see an effort made to erect a "monumental" building at greatly increased cost for equal facilities, whereas we have no "civic center" to justify the added expense.

## Generalship of A High Order

IT TOOK a good deal of generalship to run that auto race to Phoenix. The arrangements were perfect, everything went like a well regulated clock, and the sponsors of the event have every reason to be proud of its success.

Every town through which the racers passed was intensely interested. No other sporting event unless it be the world's baseball series, has attracted anything like the general interest that this race attracted, not only in towns along the route, but in other towns which had cars entered.

The actual running time of the winner, approximately 30 miles an hour for the whole distance of over 500 miles, is astonishing. The roads for a good part of the way are nothing extra, and some stretches are very bad. To average 30 miles over such a distance and such a course, means not only a good car, but an expert mechanic and a driver of iron nerve and limitless endurance.

It is one thing to run 30 miles an hour on a familiar road or street in town, but quite another to take that speed over an indifferent road in the country, which is not well known to the driver and which may present many surprises calling for instant action that amounts to instinct. Such a pace indicates that the time is not far off when motorists will cross the continent in 100 running hours.

For pleasure touring on good roads, 200 miles a day is not excessive or unusual, and that means only 15 days from coast to coast, making the trip quite leisurely.

## 14 Years Ago Today

From The Herald This Date 1920.

Ben Coffey arrived in the city from Manila, Philippine Islands, yesterday.

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## Manicure Lady on Suffrage

She and the Head Barber Have a Discussion About Suffragettes and Kindred Subjects.

By Wm. F. Kirk.

"I GUESS I will have to be a suffragette, after all," said the Manicure Lady. Ever since that Mrs. Pankhurst has come to our shores I have given the matter a great deal of deep thought, and I have made up my mind that our girls are being overlooked a lot of bets."

"My wife is a suffragette," said the Head Barber, "and I never knew until she got in the game how many rights women have or ought to have. I always believed in going fifty-fifty with the brisane, and maybe I gave more even a few more rights than I took for myself, but now it's a good thing that I don't need many rights to get along on."

"I wouldn't be stern with my husband if I was a married suffragette," declared the Manicure Lady, "but I would insist on a lot of the laws that we have got being changed. Goodness knows, some of our laws is a awful law. He can't be much of a lawyer, but he wouldn't have took the case, because suing my poor brother and getting anything out of it would be as easy as digging a canal with one of these orange sticks. When Wilfred got the letter about the case, he said, 'Latin like Sic Semper Tyrannis, which means you can't get no blood out of a turnip, or something like that.'"

"But was I talking about the suffragettes? Oh, yes, I have come to the conclusion, George, that if it were the women of the country to rise up. Honest to goodness, if I ain't the sentimental one, I ain't the superior one. I ain't the one that comes in here to have their nails did, I want to croak before another glorious sun has rose in the east."

"There has been more great men than great women," declared the Head Barber.

"That's what you read in a book somewhere," said the Manicure Lady. "How do you know there ain't been thousands of really great women in this world, if the men had gave them a chance to be great and celebrated? The fact is, George, I ain't did manage to get famous had a awful scramble getting listened to and, goodness knows, they got a raw deal even after they was famous."

No Kink.

"Oh, well, you don't go to go up in the air over it," said the Head Barber. "I ain't got no kink against women voting, if they register right and tell their consciences and the woman (an Englishwoman he deduced from the fact that this was all happening in London) continue to be right. It is about my baby. I left the house at 2 o'clock this afternoon after giving him his medicine and feeding him. He might be perfectly safe, and at 4 o'clock, while I was shopping, I remembered that my mother had given me a box of baby's medicine. I rushed back, but the child had disappeared. No one could find him. I was so worried, and the baby is almost too young to go out by itself. He is only four months old."

"George, eh?" mused the great detective.

"Yes," she replied impatiently, "but 'Don't be too sure," said the great detective. "Isn't it just possible that the child swallowed a lighted match and died?"

But with a cry of annoyance the woman was bounding down stairs on her way home to comfort the mother.

(This is one of the regular features of The El Paso Herald.)

Boy Scouts Help Mothers

El Paso Woman Finds Lads of Youthful Organization Retain Politeness, Little Intimidation.

HAD often wondered what the purpose of the Boy Scouts might be," said an El Paso woman today. "But, I have learned and I now believe they form a good organization. I had believed that the present generation was losing its politeness. I had heard that the boys of my generation were not so good, but that is not so. I was walking home from market when a little fellow, scarcely 12 years old, approached me and asked if he could not carry the house. 'No thank you,' I said and he replied: 'I am a boy scout and it is my motto to help mothers. Bless his heart and those who are teaching the boys those things. The world is getting better and not worse as some people would like us to believe.'"

Billy Adolph, who was brought to El Paso from London, Wednesday morning at 7 o'clock and taken to the Hotel Eden, made the following statement: "I was going about in a motor car a few miles east of Lordsburg, when I started to slow down for a ditch. Rogers, my mechanic, looked out and seeing the car had jumped, clearing the car and landing on the side of the road. My brakes wouldn't work and when I started the ditch the car turned over twice. The first turn one of the forks on the steering wheel panned my right lung and then the car turned over the second time, the drive shaft and rear wheels going over my right leg and fracturing it."

I was making an average of about 25 miles an hour, everything running smooth, when the brakes wouldn't work. I had been lying in the road 45 minutes by watch, five cars passing me, when Oliver Croach stopped and asked me if I was hurt. He offered to take me in his car and I told him to go on and not lose any time, but he insisted and took me and put me in his car, telling his driver to slow down. When we got within a mile of Lordsburg I was in charge by physicians of that place. Adolph's injuries consist of three ribs and his right leg fractured, and a puncture of the right lung. The nurses have been ordered by Dr. C. F. Braden, the physician in charge of the hospital, to let no one visit him, as he is to get all the rest possible and to avoid excitement or fatigue."

"I have been in several places in the southwest looking for a good location to go into business," said G. O. Strickland, proprietor of the Hotel Eden, "and El Paso looks pretty good to me. I found Douglas, Bisbee, Tucson and Phoenix all good, lively towns, but my wife and I couldn't see the conclusion at El Paso, with its good water, fine paved streets and delightful climate, was the place for us and we decided to settle here."

"This is some great weather for baseball," said G. W. Axelson, sporting editor of the Chicago Record-Herald, "and the little county of Hanover, in northwestern Germany, was regained for England by Bernadotte, the celebrated French general who had been elected heir to the throne of Sweden and was now allied with the enemies of Napoleon. The following year Hanover was made a kingdom by George III. of England as king. For some time the English kings continued to rule Hanover. William IV. was the last British monarch to hold both thrones. He died in 1837, and the Salic law prevented queen Victoria from being also queen of Hanover. The dukes of Cumberland then succeeded to the Hanoverian throne. In 1866 Prussia forcibly annexed Hanover and the royal house went into exile. Prussia's action raised a question that has ever since been a matter of dispute between Germany and England. Recently much of the ill feeling between the nations was removed by the marriage of the daughter of the German emperor and the son of the duke of Cumberland, the claimant to the Hanoverian throne."

Lee Francis, traveling passenger agent of the Texas & Pacific, arrived in the city with the baseball special, of which he had charge.

## ABE MARTIN

Forest Service Will Distribute 400,000 to Western Nebraska Settlers for Acre Reforestation; Is Friend of People.

By Frederic J. Hankin.

(Continued from page 1, this section.)

forests. The deal exchanged title to 60,000 acres of the great timber tract to the people of the country in return for a system of reforestation suitable to American conditions and affording the most successful and cheapest method of growing timber. It takes about 30,000 acres of land and plants it in forest trees, some of it by seeding and the rest by transplanting. It has a seed collecting organization, and has four great chemical seed extracting plants in operation—one for yellow pine, two for lodgepole pine, and two for Douglas fir. Thirty-seven tons of clean seed were gathered and brought during last year. In the reforestation operation an average of 900 trees to the acre were planted.

To Distribute Baby Trees.

During the coming year it is expected that as many as 400,000 baby trees will be distributed to settlers in western Nebraska for the purpose of reforestation. Each settler will be allotted something like 1000 trees, enough to set out an acre of ground in forest.

The forest service gradually is showing to the people of the country that which it operates that is in their friend and not their foe, and in this it has ably seconded the work of the national conservation congress. But at the same time there are those who assert that its policies are well as those put forward by the congress are inimical to local interests, and they propose to be heard when the congress meets. The Oregon opponents of forestry principles are coming to Washington in force, and that are coming to use the congress as a forum from which to declare their opposition to its propaganda. The fight will probably be but it is in line with the policy of the congress to have all sides heard, the anti as well as the pro.

Friday—The King's Daughters and Sons.

This is one of the regular features of The El Paso Herald.

Rio Janeiro

By GEORGE FITCH.

Author of "At Good Old Swank."

RIO JANEIRO is one of the world's greatest surprises to those who believe that America ends at Key West, and that south of that point the Indians are still fighting off the descendants of Pizarro and other eminent hold-up men.

Rio Janeiro is the capital of Brazil. Those who have not consulted an Atlas since 1876 and who have known Brazil merely from the coffee are inclined to wonder what need the country has for a capital. The same kind of humor would be shown whether the inhabitants of Kansas dress in skins or calico, and who declines to explore his country west of Canada's Corners, Connecticut, is likely to believe that Rio Janeiro is composed of grass huts festooned with 35 foot anascondas, and that the well known mistiness of the Amazon river makes it very unhealthy in the rainy season.

These beliefs would create a good deal of amusement in Rio Janeiro, which is a city of about a million people, and is situated just below the thorax of Brazil on the Atlantic ocean, and so far from the Amazon river that many of the inhabitants have never heard of it. Rio Janeiro has the finest harbor south of New York, and all steamers of any social standing whatever call there while passing. This harbor is profusely decorated with mountains on three sides, and the famous Sugar Loaf peaks, which is a most decorative place in the early Pleocene era, is greatly admired by all travelers.

Rio Janeiro's real name is "San Sebastiao do Rio Janeiro," but the full name is only used by the leisure class. The city was founded in 1567 while North America was still a howling and shaggy wilderness, and has been a South American capital since 1800. The age of the side streets in the older portions can be accurately calculated by the amount of dirt on them, but the main streets are broad and handsome, and Rio Janeiro has made all North American tourists look back by surrounding its harbor with a broad boulevard garnished with trees. When Rio Janeiro needs a new business street it bores one through the middle of the town in a manner which would fill a North American city with awe, and it spends as much money improving its looks as New York does before learning the result of its policy.

Rio Janeiro is a two story town. The masses live in the lower story two or three feet above the ocean level and die of malaria with great fluency and ease, while the classes live in beautiful suburbs back in the hills reached by streets which climb like Thomas cats.

Rio Janeiro is well known in Europe, but it is only suspected by the United States, which manages to do all its traveling thither on one or two small steamship lines. For this reason the American feels lonely and out of place in the city and has to wait for months before learning the result of the day's baseball game.

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100 Years Ago Today

ONE HUNDRED years ago today the little county of Hanover, in northwestern Germany, was regained for England by Bernadotte, the celebrated French general who had been elected heir to the throne of Sweden and was now allied with the enemies of Napoleon. The following year Hanover was made a kingdom by George III. of England as king. For some time the English kings continued to rule Hanover. William IV. was the last British monarch to hold both thrones. He died in 1837, and the Salic law prevented queen Victoria from being also queen of Hanover. The dukes of Cumberland then succeeded to the Hanoverian throne. In 1866 Prussia forcibly annexed Hanover and the royal house went into exile. Prussia's action raised a question that has ever since been a matter of dispute between Germany and England. Recently much of the ill feeling between the nations was removed by the marriage of the daughter of the German emperor and the son of the duke of Cumberland, the claimant to the Hanoverian throne.

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